Mr. M. K. Krishnamurti Rao.—The present rules are not satisfactory. Retirement must be compulsorily enforced at 55 years.

Mr. A. Ramanna.—Mr. Krishnamurthi Rao's suggestion is not suitable. Government loses if officers physically fit are retired.

Mr. S. Seetharamiah.—A satisfactory rule would be to make retirement optional to an officer between 55 and 60, if he is declared physically fit.

Mr. M. Venkatakrishniah.—Executive officers should be retired at 55. In the case of judicial and administrative officers, discretion may be exercised.

Reply of Government.—Recorded.

SUBJECT NO. 187.

'Stamp duty in British Territory on *hundis*.

M Singri Nanjappa, Tumkur District Board.

Summary of discussion.—In sending *hundis* drawn in Mysore to some places in British Territory, a receipt stamp of the value of an anna is affixed. For negotiating the *hundi* there, another anna is also recovered. This extra recovery needs to be done away with.

Reply of Government.—The existing rules contain the necessrary provision for exemption from double levy.

SUBJECT NO. 188.

'Thumb impression of purchaser of general stamps.

Mr. Thimmannaiya, Tiptur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Under the present rules for the sale of stamps, a man can personate another and purchase the stamp paper in his name. To prevent such frauds, which might ruin innocent illiterate persons, it may be ruled that thumb marks should be affixed to the stamp paper and against the entry relating to the sale in the register of the vendor, who should certify to the record of the thumb impression. This practice obtains in the Bombay Presidency.

Mr. K. Ramanuja Iyengar also supported the representation.

Mr. K. Krishnamurti Rao said that thumb impression was unnecessary but that the purpose for which the paper was purchased should be directed to be specified.

Reply of Government.—Unnecessary.

EXCISE.

(*Nos. 189 to 196.*)

SUBJECT NO. 189.

Prevention of the spread of the drink evil.

Mr. H. Pilkington, North Mysore Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—The increase of revenue under this head is indicative of the daily increasing consumption of toddy and arrack. To check effectively the spread of this evil, it is very desirable to restrict the supply of toddy and arrack, to places where they are not locally available, to limited quantities and to gradually reduce the supply until a minimum is reached. Restricted supply will not result in illicit tapping of toddy trees, if the detective staff is vigilant and properly rewarded. It is also